

# OVERVIEW

## 29 CFR Part 1910, Subpart I

### Personal Protective Equipment

**SCOPE:** Covers general industry.

**GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:** The employer must assess the workplace to determine if hazards are present, or are likely to be present, which necessitate the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). If such hazards are present, or are likely to be present, the employer shall select, and have each affected employee use, the types of PPE that will protect against the identified hazards. PPE must properly fit each affected employee and the employer shall verify the hazard assessment in writing.

Damaged or defective equipment shall not be used.

The employer must provide training to each employee required to use PPE. Training will include when PPE is necessary, what PPE is necessary, how to wear PPE, and the proper care, maintenance, useful life, and disposal of the PPE. The employer has to certify in writing that the employee has received and understands the training.

**EYE AND FACE PROTECTION:** Employees must use appropriate eye or face protection when exposed to eye or face hazards from flying particles, molten metal, liquid chemicals, acids or caustic liquids, chemical gases or vapors, or potentially injurious light radiation. Requirements for side protection, prescription lenses, filter lenses, and identification of the manufacturer are spelled out. Protective eye and face devices purchased after July 5, 1994 must comply with ANSI Z87.1-1989 or be demonstrated to be equally effective. Devices purchased before that date must comply with ANSI Z87.1-1968 or be equally effective.

**HEAD PROTECTION:** Employees must wear protective helmets when working in areas where there is a potential for injury to the head from falling objects. Protective helmets designed to reduce electrical shock hazards shall be worn by each such affected employee when near exposed electrical conductors which could contact the head. Protective helmets purchased after July 5, 1994 shall comply with ANSI Z89.1-1986 or be equally effective. Helmets purchased before that date shall comply with ANSI Z89.1-1969 or be equally effective.

**FOOT PROTECTION:** Employees must wear protective footwear when working in areas where there is a danger of foot injuries due to falling or rolling objects, or objects piercing the sole, and where employees' feet are exposed to electrical hazards. Protective footwear purchased after July 5, 1994 must comply with ANSI Z41-1991 or be equally effective. Protective footwear purchased before that date must comply with ANSI Z41.1-1967 or be equally effective.

**HAND PROTECTION:** Employers must select and require employees to use appropriate hand protection when employees' hands are exposed to hazards such as those from skin absorption of harmful substances; severe cuts or lacerations; severe abrasions; punctures; chemical burns; thermal burns and harmful temperature extremes. Employers shall base the selection of the appropriate hand protection on evaluation of the performance characteristics of the hand protection relative to the tasks to be performed, conditions present, duration of use and the hazards and potential hazards identified.

**APPENDIX B:** This appendix provides non-mandatory compliance assistance for employers and employees in implementing requirements for a hazard assessment and the selection of personal protective equipment.